



**Testimony of Abraham Scarr, Director**

**Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)**

**in support of**

**Raised Bill 6332: An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products**

Chairperson Bartolomeo, Chairperson Urban and Members of the Committee: My name is Abe Scarr and I am the Director of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG). Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Raised Bill 6332: An Act Concerning Toxic Fire Retardants in Children's Products.

As a member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut, ConnPIRG strongly supports this bill. For the past 27 years, ConnPIRG has released an annual Toy Safety report, "Trouble in Toyland." Unfortunately, children still face numerous toxic threats to their health. In many ways, these threats are the most insidious, because unlike a choking hazard which can be seen and removed by parents, toxins may go undetected while inflicting serious damage to a child's health. There is simply no justification for exposing children to toxic risk and parents should be able to buy children's products without having to worry about doing so.

The chemicals banned for manufacture or sale in children's products by this bill are used as fire retardants, yet evidence suggests they are not effective for this purpose<sup>1</sup>. The use of these chemicals in children's products is putting Connecticut's children needlessly at risk. This bill is an appropriate measure to protect children's health and I urge to the committee to fully support it.

Read our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Toy Safety Report: <http://bit.ly/WUgAiT>

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<sup>1</sup> Shaw, S; Blum, A; Weber, R; Kurunthachalam, K; Rich, D; Lucas, D; Koshland, C; Dobraca, D; Hanson, S; Birnbaum; "Halogenated Flame Retardants: Do the Fire Safety Benefits Justify the Risks?" Reviews on Environmental Health Vol. 25, No. 4; (2010).